

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 ACDA-10 OC-05 CCO-00 OMB-01 PRS-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 /056 W

----- 041508

O 231915Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9749

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13243

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC

REF: STATE 281525 (1974)

1. QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL DE COURCEL GAVE ME ON MAY 23
FRENCH RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC.

2. TEXT OF FRENCH DRAFT NOTE FOLLOWS:

"MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

"J'AI L'HONNEUR DE ME REFERER AUX RECENTES CONVERSATIONS
ENTRE REPRESENTANTS DU GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS ET
DU GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS, RELATIVES AUX CONSEQUENCES
FINANCIERES DES DECISIONS PRISES PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT
FRANCAIS EN APPLICATION DE SES AIDE-MEMOIRE DES 10 ET 29
MARS 1966, QUI ONT CONDUIT AU RETRAIT DES PERSONNELS
MILITAIRES, APPROVISIONNEMENTS ET EQUIPEMENTS AMERI-
CAINS DU TERRITOIRE FRANCAIS.

"LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PROPOSE QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT
DES ETATS-UNIS ACCEPTE LA SOMME DE 100 MILLIONS DE
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DOLLARS, PAYABLE EN CINQ VERSEMENTS EGAUX DE 20 MILLIONS

DE DOLLARS CHACUN, A PARTIR DU MOIS DE JUIN 1975 ET AU MOIS DE JUIN DES QUATRE ANNEES SUIVANTES, EN REGLEMENT GLOBAL DES RECLAMATIONS FINANCIERES SOUMISES AU GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS DANS SA NOTE DU 17 SEPTEMBRE 1968 ET SON MEMORANDUM DU 14 JANVIER 1969. LES VERSEMENTS SERONT EFFECTUES AUPRES DE M. (QUALITE OFFICIELLE), COMPTE NO. . . ., A PARIS (OU WASHINGTON). CETTE TRANSACTION FORFAITAIRE INTERVIEN EN APPLICATION DES DISPOSITIONS FIGURANT AUX ACCORDS FRANCO-AMERICAINS DU 27 FEVRIER 1951, DU 4 OCTOBRE 1952 ET DU 8 DECEMBRE 1958.

"SI CES PROPOSITIONS RENCONTRENT L'AGREMENT DE VOTRE GOUVERNEMENT, LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS PROPOSE QUE LA PRESENTE LETTRE ET LA REPOSE CONSTITUENT UN ACCORD QUI ENTRERA EN VIGUEUR A LA DATE DE LA DERNIERE SIGNATURE."

3. FRENCH TEXT QUOTED ABOVE SEEMS TO BE WORD-FOR-WORD TRANSLATION OF OUR DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES AS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 REFTTEL, WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES:

-- FIRST, "MARCH 1, 1975" DATE FOR FIRST PAYMENT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO "THE MONTH OF JUNE" AND SUCCEEDING PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE IN SUCCEEDING MONTHS OF JUNE ACCORDING TO FRENCH PROPOSAL.

-- SECOND, FRENCH DRAFT PROPOSES SPECIFIC NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND PLACE FOR RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS.

-- THIRD, FRENCH TEXT REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THREE OF THE FOUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER WHICH OUR FACILITIES WERE DEVELOPED OR CONSTRUCTED IN FRANCE. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, REFER TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OF JUNE 17, 1953 -- WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN OUR NOTE VERBALE NO. 290 OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1968, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER THREE FRANCO-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS.

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-- FINALLY, FRENCH TEXT PROVIDES THAT AGREEMENT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE DATE OF THE LAST SIGNATURE.

4. FIRST FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS REASONABLE, GIVEN PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE WE PRESENTED OUR ORIGINAL DRAFT. SECOND FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS USEFUL SPECIFICATION OF METHOD FOR

PAYMENTS. IF WASHINGTON PREFERS TO SPECIFY TWO ACCOUNTS
-- RATHER THAN THE ONE ACCOUNT SUGGESTED BY FRENCH

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 ACDA-10 OC-05 CCO-00 OMB-01 PRS-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 /056 W

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O 231931Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9750

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 13243

LIMDIS

DRAFT -- WE THINK THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH FRENCH WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY. REGARDING THIRD FRENCH CHANGE, QUAI WORKING LEVEL TELLS US THAT FRENCH TEXT DROPPED REFERENCE TO U.S. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BECAUSE -- IN OPINION OF FRENCH -- THAT ACCORD WAS AN OFFSPRING OF THE EARLIER SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 6, 1950, WHICH, IN TURN WAS REPLACED BY THE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 8, 1958. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO FRENCH, AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 8, 1958, SUBSUMES THE U.S. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, QUAI TELLS US THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO JUNE 17, 1953, AGREEMENT, I.E., MENTIONING FOUR RATHER THAN THREE AGREEMENTS. FOURTH FRENCH CHANGE SEEMS TO BE REASONABLE CLARIFICATION.

5. DE COURCEL TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE FRENCH "ABOUT A MONTH" TO COMPLETE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIGNATURE AND FIRST PAYMENT, ONCE QUAI HAD RECEIVED NOTIFI-

CATION FROM USG THAT FRENCH TEXT WAS ACCEPTABLE. WE
WOULD EXPECT THAT MINOR CHANGES ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE
MENTIONED IN PARA 4 ABOVE, WOULD NOT CAUSE UNDUE DELAY
IN COMPLETION OF FRELOC SETTLEMENT. SHOULD DEPARTMENT
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WISH TO MAKE MORE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES AT THIS TIME, HOW-
EVER, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL PROBLEMS
THAT MIGHT PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN FINAL SIGNATURE
OF NOTES. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO RECEIVE FIRST FRENCH
PAYMENT BEFORE 1 JULY 1975, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE DEPART-
MENT'S COMMENTS TO GIVE TO FRENCH EARLY NEXT WEEK.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, FRELOC CLAIMS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS13243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0353
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaaugy.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 281525, 75 (197
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006